NICO VAN ZYL DESIGN ENGINEER

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I am a design engineer with 15+ years of experience working mostly remotely, designing, building and maintaining digital products for startups through to enterprise. My work spans product strategy, hiring and team management, but I am happiest as an individual contributor, working through the details while keeping the bigger picture in view. I take initiative and ownership, continually pushing myself to improve my craft and the work we deliver as a team.

I'm looking for a team that works remotely and asynchronously, takes design seriously, and gives me the freedom to prototype quickly, use AI extensively and own the details that build trust, reduce friction and make products memorable.

Altostrat

2025–present

Head of Product

Own product design for Studio, a network operations workspace, alongside Altostrat's website and brand. Led product design and app development to ship Studio in three months with one other engineer.

Owners Circle (formerly transverse)

2023–present

Co-founder, Designer & Developer

Built the backend, web UI and brand for an automotive platform helping enthusiasts manage and enjoy their cars.

Simvida

2022–2025

Design & Development

Built the web app and design system for a fintech platform helping advisors and clients build wealth. Defined the team culture and hired team members. The design system helped the platform launch in record time.

VATIT Stream & Airpool

2021–2023

UI Design & Design Systems

Created Luminary, a shared design system for VATIT Stream & Airpool's logistics and shipping platforms, and redesigned their interfaces. Helped multiple product teams ship with a consistent design language.

Shopstar

2019–2021

Frontend Development

Rebuilt the site and page builder for an ecommerce platform serving small businesses. Enabled store owners to create their own layouts and pages instead of relying on rigid templates.

Imagemakers

2019–2020

UI Design, Design Systems & Frontend Development

Built a design system and modern frontend stack for Imagemakers' corporate clothing business, replacing legacy platforms. Migrated all interfaces to the new architecture and piloted the new direct-to-consumer store.

MikroCloud, Woom, Bixbio, National Arts Festival, Esse, Szemere, UK Power Networks, Zip, Myperks and many more — Since 2011